

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the message. NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: What do we do when we are in a season with no clear direction from God; when can't see the next step and only have a word from God? What do we do when we get to the point we say, "I don't even know if I believe the word of God?" Stay faithful. Know that God has a specific word for us. All we need is a word from God – stand on it.

Setting the stage: James 5:17-18 tells us what about Elijah? A. He is a man like us. Israel was divided, in rebellion and practicing idolatry by worshipping Baal.

Point: Before God works through me, He has to work in me.

Five Observations from 1Kings 17:1-16

1. **Placed in Obscurity** v1-3 What did God do for and with Elijah? A. God raised Elijah (Jehovah is my God) from obscurity to deliver a specific word to King Ahab. What gave Elijah the authority to deliver God's word to Ahab? A. He stood before God. After delivering God's word to Ahab, what did God tell Elijah to do? A. Get away and hide at the Brook Cherith (cut off). What did Pastor Ray say the Brook Cherith represented? A. A place of isolation and separation; a place to be alone with no human fellowship. A place to meet God for the next word or direction. **Question:** How do we like being in "hiding" places alone with no fellowship except the fellowship with God? **Point:** The hiding place is not a place of punishment but a place for preparation. What did Pastor Ray say was a sign of our level of maturity? A. How fast we respond to the word that God gives us. **Point:** Obscurity is not absence of purpose.
2. **Prepared in Isolation** v4-6 What 2 important things did Elijah do (v5)? A. 1) He went; 2) He stayed. What did Elijah receive at the hiding place? A. Supernatural, unexpected provision from unclean birds. **Question:** Do we ever reject how God provides for us. It's not what we expected or not provided the way we wanted it. **App:** Don't complain about what God provides or how He provides it. **Point:** God provides just enough just in time. **Challenge:** Be ready for discomfort when God uses us. It's time to trust Him. **Ps 91:1-2**
3. **Pressed by Dry Seasons** v7 Now the same prophecy that affected Israel affects Elijah. What will God do for us in the dry seasons? A. He will sustain us. **Jere 17:7-8** **App:** When our "brook" dries up, listen/pay attention for the next word.
4. **Proved through Risky Faith** v8-12 God sends Elijah to a poor widow for his next provision. Why is this risky faith? A. At God's word he left a place of dependence to rely on a specific desperate widow with few provisions. **Side note:** Zarephath was Jezebel's hometown. What might we say when we don't understand a word from God? A. "This is not from God – He would not lead me to a place of danger." **Question:** Is God more interested in His glory or our safety? Both Elijah and the widow are stretched. They have no certainty, just a word. Providing water – no problem; but bread – that's asking too much. What was Elijah asking the widow to do? A. Trust God with what little she had. When we worry about what we don't have, what did Pastor Ray call it? A. A scarcity mentality. What does risky faith call us to do? A. To give God what little we have and trust that He will provide. Don't lean on our own ability. It demands more trust than logic.

6. **Provided for Supernaturally** v13-16 The widow obeyed Elijah's word.

What does Elijah tell the widow not to do? **A.** Don't fear. Easy for him to say – he was going to eat first. **Point:** It was a hard saying but proved God's provision. **Question:** Will we trust God with our first fruits? **App:** We must prioritize God in the "secret place." God first, blessings follow. **Phil 4:19**

Close with encouragement: The God who sustained Elijah is the same God who will sustain us. Trust God when He gives us a word for the next step.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

Talk it over | week 9

discussion | study

When A Word is All You Need

1Kings 17:1-16

Pastor Ray Dash